

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Mail Stop New Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: S-9-6

On

By

Michelle Nicely

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

LEWIS SHARPS et al.

Application No.: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

For: METHODS FOR REPAIRING
DAMAGED INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 3739

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Before substantive examination, please amend the subject application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1 as follows:

The present invention is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/767,194 filed September 28, 2000 which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/224,107, filed August 9, 2000, ~~and which is a continuation-in-part of PCT Application No. 00/13706, filed May 17, 2000 (Attorney Docket No. S-5 PCT), which~~ also claims priority from U.S. Patent Application No. 09/316,472, filed May 21, 1999 (Attorney Docket No. S-5), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/295,687, filed April 21, 1999 (Attorney Docket No. E-7-2) and U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/054,323 and 09/268,616, filed April 2, 1998 and March 15, 1999, respectively (Attorney Docket Nos. E-5 and E-7-1, respectively), each of which are continuation-in-parts of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/990,374, filed December 15, 1997 (Attorney Docket E-3), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No.